

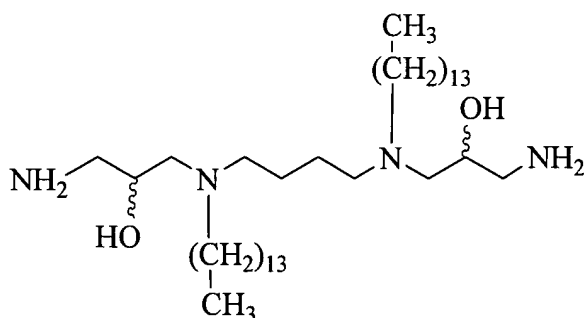
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims

Claims 1-236 cancelled

237. (new) A compound having the formula:

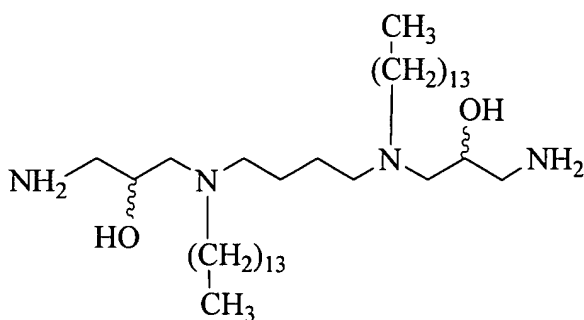


238. (new) A composition comprising the compound of claim 237 solubilized in aqueous medium.

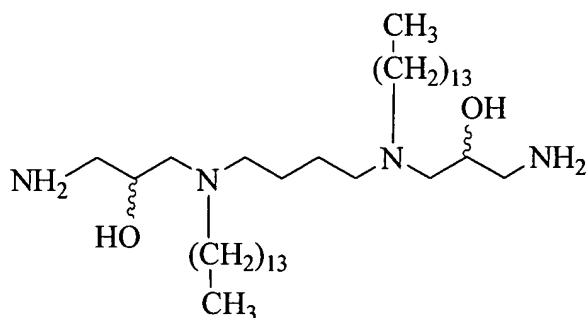
239. (new) The composition of claim 238 further comprising a neutral lipid.

240. (new) The composition of claim 238 further comprising DOPE, DOPC or cholesterol.

241. (new) A kit comprising a container means which comprises a compound having the formula:

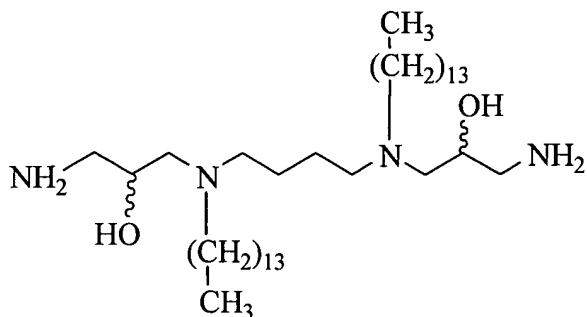


242. (new)The kit of claim 241 wherein the compound is solubilized in aqueous medium.
243. (new)The kit of claim 242 wherein the aqueous medium further comprises a neutral lipid.
244. (new)The kit of claim 242 wherein the aqueous medium further comprises DOPE, DOPC or cholesterol.
245. (new)A method for introducing a nucleic acid into a cell, the method comprising the steps of:
contacting a compound having the formula:



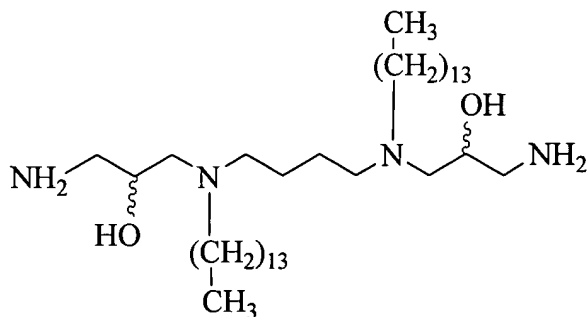
with the nucleic acid for at least 15 minutes to form a complex; and
incubating the complex with the cell.

246. (new)The method of claim 245 wherein the contacting step and the incubating step are conducted in physiological medium.
247. (new) A method for introducing a nucleic acid into a cell, the method comprising the steps of contacting a composition comprising a compound having the formula



solubilized in aqueous medium with the nucleic acid for at least 15 minutes to form a complex; and incubating the complex with a cell.

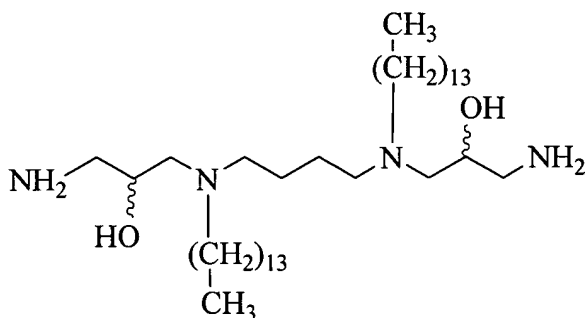
248. (new)The method of claim 247 wherein the contacting step and the incubating step are conducted in physiological medium.
249. (new)The method of claim 247 wherein the composition comprises a neutral lipid when it contacts the nucleic acid.
250. (new)The method of claim 247 wherein the composition comprises DOPE, DOPC, or cholesterol when it contacts the nucleic acid.
251. (new) A lipid aggregate made by mixing a compound having the formula



with a neutral lipid.

252. (new)The lipid aggregate of claim 252, wherein the neutral lipid is DOPE, DOPC or cholesterol.

253. (new)The lipid aggregate of claim 251, wherein the lipid aggregate is 50 to 200 nm in diameter.
254. (new)The lipid aggregate of claim 251, wherein the lipid aggregate is formed using extrusion, freeze-thaw, or sonication.
255. (new)A method for making a lipid aggregate, comprising mixing a compound having the formula



- with a neutral lipid to form the lipid aggregate.
256. (new)The method of claim 255, wherein the neutral lipid is made by mixing the compound with the neutral lipid DOPE, DOPC or cholesterol.
257. (new)The method of claim 255, wherein the mixing is performed to obtain a lipid aggregate having a diameter of 50 to 200 nm.
258. (new)The method of claim 255, wherein the lipid aggregate is formed using sonication, freeze-thaw, or extrusion.